

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/007,106	WU ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Mark Tremblay	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 3  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 5  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 4  Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant: Wu et al.

Filing date: 12/10/2001

5 The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Published Patent Application #2003/0055526 to Avanzino et al. is cited for showing a wafer monitoring system using a wireless network.

10 U. S. Patent #6,330,971 to Mabry et al., U. S. Patent #5,389,769 to Yamashita et al., U. S. Patent #4,974,166 to Maney et al., U. S. Patent #4,827,110 and U. S. Patent #4,588,880 to Hesser are cited for showing an RFID system combined with a wafer carrier.

U. S. Patent #5,866,024 to de Villeneuve is cited for showing a CAM system using RFID.

U. S. Patent #4,500,080 to Aigo is cited for showing an electronic tag used with a wafer carrier.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-30 are allowed.

20 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or suggest the combination of the claimed elements. As evidenced by the prior art of record, managing the automated manufacture of semiconductor wafers has become a crowded art. There are numerous systems to choose from when performing this task, and a vast number of possibilities for combining known systems into a whole. Applicant has deviated from typical setups in several respects: the use of off-the-shelf identification smart cards of the type used for personal identification is a well developed art, but it is not typically applied to inanimate objects such as wafer carriers. Systems such as Mabry, Yamashita, Maney, etc. typically rely on fixed readers. Aigo teaches the use of electronic tags of the type that might be termed "identification cards" but does not teach the use of wireless cards, the portable reader, or the interruptible network. Since the method of Aigo has fallen out of favor in the art, as evidenced by the most recent references, it would be improper hindsight for Examiner to suggest that the artisan would

find it obvious to modify the most recent art such as Mabry to use portable, wireless smart card readers, that have an interruptible connection to the network.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue 5 fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Voice*

Inquiries for the Examiner should be directed to Mark Tremblay at (703) 305-5176. The 10 Examiner's regular office hours are 10:30 am to 7:00 pm EST Monday to Friday. Voice mail is available. If Applicant has trouble contacting the Examiner, the Supervisory Patent Examiner, Michael Lee, can be reached on (703) 305-3503. Technical questions and comments concerning PTO procedures may be directed to the Patent Assistance Center hotline at 1-800-786-9199 or (703) 308-4357.

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**MARK TREMBLAY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

March 24, 2003